## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Applicant has amended Claims 2, 4, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, and 17-19. Applicant has cancelled Claims 1, 11, 13, and 16. Applicant has previously withdrawn Claims 20-24. Applicant respectfully acknowledges Examiner's allowance of Claim 12 if rewritten to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of pending Claims 2-10, 12, 14-15, and 17-19.

Claim 12 depended upon Claim 1. Applicant has incorporated all the limitations of Claim 1 into newly independent Claim 12, which is therefore allowable.

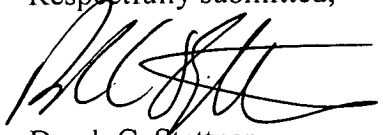
The limitation of Claim 12 has also been incorporated into independent Claim 9, which is an apparatus claim analogous to method Claim 12. Claims 14 and 15 are respectively method and apparatus claims substantially similar to Claim 12, and have been amended in a similar fashion. It is respectfully considered that these claims are also allowable.

All of the remaining pending claims depend from independent Claims 9, 12, 14, or 15 and are therefore allowable for reasons set forth above.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of pending Claims 2-10, 12, 14-15, and 17-19.

Respectfully submitted,



Derek C. Stettner
Reg. No. 37,945

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Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108
(414) 271-6560